UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/617/Add.2
13 December 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 95 (b)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Report of the Second Committee (Part III)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 95, sub-items (b) and (c) (see A/50/617, para. 3). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 38th and 41st meetings, on 22 November and 5 December 1995. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.38 and 41).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/50/L.30 AND L.53

2. At the 38th meeting, on 22 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Commission on Human Settlements" (A/C.2/50/L.30), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, in which the Assembly established the Commission on Human Settlements and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), to serve as the institutional focus for human settlements activities within the United Nations system,

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* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/50/617 and addenda.

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"Recalling also its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which it designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the intergovernmental body responsible for coordination, evaluating and monitoring the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, 1/

"Recalling further resolution 47/180 of December 1992, in which it decided to convene the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) from 3 to 14 June 1996, and to establish an ad hoc secretariat for the Conference that would be an organizational part of the Centre,

"Noting with satisfaction the positive role played by the Centre in the implementation of the Strategy and the human settlement aspects of Agenda 21, 2/

"Noting with concern that two thirds of the entire increase in world population currently occurs in urban areas, so that by the year 2000 almost 50 per cent of the world population will be living in towns and cities, and that that trend is straining the capacity of Governments, at both the national and local levels, to mobilize the financial, technical and managerial resources necessary to sustain such human settlements,

"1. Endorses the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its fifteenth session (Nairobi, 25 April-1 May 1995), 3/ including its decision 15/1 on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000; 1/

"2. Takes note with appreciation of the contribution of the Commission and of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to the preparations at the national, regional and global levels for the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held in Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996;

"3. Encourages the Commission and the Centre to submit their contributions to the preparations for the Conference to the Preparatory Committee at its third session, to be held in New York from 26 February to 8 March 1996;

"4. Invites the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the role of the Commission in the implementation and follow-up of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference."

1/ Resolution 43/181, annex.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

3/ A/50/8 and Add.1.

3. At the 41st meeting, on 5 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Commission on Human Settlements" (A/C.2/50/L.53), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.30, and orally revised it by deleting operative paragraph 4, which had read:

> "Invites the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the role of the Commission in the implementation and follow-up of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference."

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.53, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 6).

5. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.53, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.30 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Commission on Human Settlements

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, in which it established the Commission on Human Settlements and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), to serve as the institutional focus for human settlements activities within the United Nations system,

Recalling also its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which it designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for coordinating, evaluating and monitoring the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, 4/

Recalling further its resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992, by which it decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) from 3 to 14 June 1996 and requested the Secretary-General to establish an ad hoc secretariat for the Conference, which should be organizationally part of the Centre,

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4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 8, addendum (A/43/8/Add.1).

Noting with satisfaction the positive role played by the Centre in the implementation of the Global Strategy and the human settlement aspects of Agenda 21, 5/

Aware of the fact that two thirds of the entire increase in world population currently occurs in urban areas, so that by the year 2000 almost 50 per cent of the world population will be living in towns and cities, and noting with concern that high-level urbanization is straining the capacity of Governments, at both the national and the local levels, to mobilize the financial, technical and managerial resources necessary to sustain such human settlements,

1. Endorses the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its fifteenth session (Nairobi, 25 April-1 May 1995), 6/ including its resolution 15/1 on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, 7/ and the report of the Commission on the implementation of the Global Strategy; 8/

2. Takes note with appreciation of the contribution of the Commission and of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to the preparations at the national, regional and global levels for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June 1996;

3. Encourages the Centre to submit its contributions to the preparations for the Conference to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference at its third session, to be held in New York between 5 and 16 February 1996.

5/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum) resolution 1, annex II.

6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 8 and corrigenda (A/50/8 and Corr.1 and 2).

7/ Ibid., annex I, sect. A.

8/ Ibid., Supplement No. 8, addendum (A/50/8/Add.1).